(c) whether these pulses have been sold time to time through bidding in Indian markets;

(d) if so, the amount of pulses and the time when these pulses were sold through bidding process in the country; and

(e) the profit earned by these agencies during each year of above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government has permitted PSUs namely STC, PEC Ltd., MMTC and NAFED to import pulses with reimbursement of losses up to 15% of landed cost and service charge of 1.2% of GIF value. There was no import of pulses by these PSUs on Government account during 2005-06. During 2006-07 NAFED imported and disposed 48061 tonnes of pulses. Import and disposal of pulses by PSUs and NAFED during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows:-

Qty. in MTS

Name of Agencies	2007-08		2008-09*	
	Imported	Disposed	Imported	Disposed
NAFED	249079	249079	72696	21949
STC	364343	364288	210324	9774
PEC Ltd.	393394	304348	272850	35953
MMTC	304411	272024	182571	52090

*upto Dec 2008

PSUs and NAFED arranged disposal of imported pulses in open market by floating tenders from time to time and also as per the provisions of their business procedure. Only STC and MMTC have reported profits (tentative) of Rs. 43 crore and Rs. 30 crore respectively during 2007-08.

Complaints against unsatisfactory PDS

590. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States in respect of whom complaints were received on account of unsatisfactory public distribution system during the last three years;

(b) the action taken in each case;

(c) the details of suggestions received from different quarters in this regard; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Details of complaints on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) received from individuals, organizations and through media, etc. in 2006-2007 and 2008, in the Department of Food and Public Distribution are given in the Statement

(*See* below). These were sent to respective State Governments/UT Administrations for necessary action.

TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central Government and State Governments. To streamline functioning of TPDS, Government has taken a series of measures. Apart from regular monitoring and review with State & UT Governments, Government has been getting functioning of TPDS evaluated from time to time through independent agencies. Since earlier evaluation studies conducted by PEO, Planning Commission and ORG MARG reported in 2005 that there were diversions and leakages of foodgrains in many States and UTs, identification of targeted beneficiaries had exclusion and inclusion errors, and functioning of fair price shops was not financially viable, to streamline functioning of TPDS, steps taken by Government are of four categories:-

(i) For improving functioning of TPDS machinery, continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, door step delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops, timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops and training of staff as well as vigilance committee members are being emphasized.

(ii) For greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, display of lists of BPL 'and AAY families at fair price shops, display of allocated quantities on web sites, adoption and implementation of revised Citizens Charter, monthly certification of delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops and their distribution to ration card holders and taking up publicity-cum-awareness campaign have been initiated.

(iii) Improved vigilance at various levels and strict penal action against those involved in malpractices, including action against staff responsible for issuing ineligible ration cards and persons found in possession of such ration cards are being emphasized.

(iv) Introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities, use of global positioning system on vehicles transporting TPDS commodities and bar coding of ration cards, etc., is being piloted.

With these measures, functioning of TPDS is getting streamlined. To assess impact of all these initiatives, concurrent evaluation of TPDS has been taken up in 26 States & UTs.

Statement

Details of General complaints on TPDS received from individuals, organisations and through media reports, etc.

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of complaints received during		
		2006	2007	2008
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	-	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	-	-
3	Assam	1	2	4
4	Bihar	8	5	5
5	Chhattisgarh	6	1	1

1	2	3	4	5
6	Delhi	31	12	26
7	Goa	-	-	-
8	Gujarat	-	2	-
9	Haryana	7	3	6
10	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1
11	Jammu & Kashmir	2	-	-
12	Jharkhand	1	5	1
13	Karnataka	3	3	2
14	Kerala	-	-	4
15	Madhya Pradesh	3	3	2
16	Maharashtra	8	6	7
17	Manipur	-	-	2
18	Meghalaya	-	-	-
19	Mizoram	-	-	-
20	Nagaland	9	-	-
21	Orissa	3	-	-
22	Punjab	4	-	1
23	Rajasthan	9	16	7
24	Sikkim	-	-	-
25	Tamil Nadu	2	-	2
26	Tripura	-	-	-
27	Uttarakhand	8	-	-
28	Uttar Pradesh	60	38	17
29	West Bengal	2	3	4
30	A & N Islands	-	-	-
31	Chandigarh	-	-	-
32	D & N Haveli	-	-	-
33	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
34	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
35	Pondicherry	-	-	1
	TOTAL :	172	99	94

Main issues raised through press reports relates to alleged leakage/diversion of foodgrains and that of other complaints from individuals/organizations relates to non-issue of ration cards, alleged non-distribution/diversion of foodgrains, irregular functioning of FPSs, etc.